

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 SSO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05  
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SES-02 /079 W

-----018699 092156Z /75

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AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USUN NEW YORK 5938  
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 10202

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, IS, EG, US  
SUBJECT: REACTION OF MK'S TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF CAMP DAVID MEETING

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT CAME AS  
A PLEASANT SURPRISE TO MOST ISRAELIS. (SOME RECALLED PRIOR PRESS  
SPECULATION ABOUT SUCH A MEETING.) THERE WAS AN ALMOST  
AUDIBLE SIGH OF RELIEF AT THIS PROMISE OF NEW  
MOMENTUM TO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. TAKING THIER  
CUE FROM PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S UPBEAT PERFORMANCE  
AT A PRESS CONFERENCE LAST NIGHT (AUGUST 8), GOVERNMENT  
SPOKEDMEN RADIATED OPTIMISM. THE PRESS, HOWEVER, WAS  
LESS ENTHUSIASTIC. WHILE SEVERAL STRIKEBOUND NEWS-  
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PAPERS DID NOT APPEAR TODAY, THOSE THAT DID SOUNDED  
A PRECAUTIONARY NOTE AND WARNED OF RISKS TO ISRAEL  
AND TO THE PEACE PROCESS INHERENT IN THE "GO-FOR-BROKD"  
SUMMIT.

2. REACTIONS FROM THE POLITICIANS WERE UNUSUALLY  
UNIFORM. ALTHOUGH A FEW EXPRESSED PRIVATE RESERVATIONS,

ALL APPROVED OF THE SUMMIT. OPPOSITION LEADERS PERES AND RABIN PUBLICLY WELCOMED THE NEWS AND WISHED BEGIN FULL SUCCESS. SIMILAR ENDORSEMENTS WERE EXPRESSED TO US PRIVATELY BY POLITICIANS OF ALMOST EVERY STRIPE. IRONICALLY, HOWEVER, THERE WERE HINTS OF MISGIVINGS IN THE CONVERSATIONS OF THE LIKUD MK'S, WHICH WERE ALMOST TOTALLY ABSENT IN THE REMARKS OF ALIGNMENT LEADERS. MK EHUD OLMERT SAID HE WAS "HAPPY" WITH THE NEWS. HIS LA'AM PARTY HAD CAUCUSED SHORTLY AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND HAD GIVEN ITS BLESSING TO THE SUMMIT. NONETHELESS, HE WAS CONCERNED LEST ISRAEL FACE A SOLID U.S.-EGYPTIAN FRONT AT CAMP DAVID.

3. TWO LIBERAL PARTY MK'S WONDERED ALOUD WHAT MIGHT HAVE ENTICED SADAT TO ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION. DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE, YEHEZKEL FLOMIN, HOPED IT WAS NOT THE PROMISE OF U.S. CONCESSIONS AT ISRAEL'S EXPENSE AND "BEHIND HER BACK." THE HEAD OF THE LIKUD KNESSET FACTION, AVRAHAM SHARIR, WAS CERTAIN THAT SADAT RECEIVED THE ASSURANCE OF MORE DIRECT U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, BOTH LIBERAL MK'S WERE OPTIMISTIC OVER PROSPECTS FOR THE SUMMIT'S SUCCESS, VOICING THE BELIEF THAT NONE OF THE PARTIES COULD AFFORD A FAILURE.

4. ACCORDING TO THE DMC'S AMNON RUBINSTEIN, THE  
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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SUMMIT MEANS SADAT IS SINCERE ABOUT PEACE BECAUSE HE ACCEPTED THE INVITATION WITHOUT FURTHER ISRAELI CONCESSIONS. RUBINSTEIN BELIEVES BEGIN'S DENIAL OF ANY SECRET CHANGE IN GOI POLICY TO BRING SADAT TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE.

5. LABOR PARTY MK MICHA HARISH WAS NOT SO SURE. HE THOUGHT IT QUITE LIKELY THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD RECEIVED "SOMETHING SUBSTANTIAL FROM BEGIN" -- A POSSIBILITY THAT, IN FACT, PLEASED HARISH. WITH A NOD OT THE MODERATION SADAT DEMONSTRATED AT VIENNA, HARIS OPINED THAT SUCCESS AT CAMP DAVID WOULD LARGELY DEPEND ON SOME MOVEMENT IN BEGIN'S POSITION. LABOR MK MOSHE SHAHAL WAS "80 PERCENT CERTAIN" THAT REAL PROGRESS WOULD BE ACHIEVED AT CAMP DAVID. TO SHAHAL THE SUMMIT REPRESENTS A NEW LEASE ON LIFE FOR THE SADAT INITIATIVE.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 09 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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